

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY PA:CWBRAV:SAC

APPROVED BY PA - CHARLES W. BRAY

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P R 242245Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA - DECONTROL JAN. 1, 1977

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TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROPER REPORT ON PUBLIC OPINION RE SOUTH KOREA

REF: STATE 219300, SEOUL 7243 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY SEOUL QUESTIONS WHAT IT DESCRIBES AS AN UNDULY PESSIMISTIC ANALYSIS IN DEPARTMENT'S 219300, WHICH PREPARED AND TRANSMITTED BY BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS. IT ALSO RAISES TWO APPARENT STATISTICAL DISCREPANCIES IN PA'S ANALYSIS.

2. SEOUL SUGGESTS THAT PA ANALYSIS DID NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT WHILE 43 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WISHED TO STAND BY TREATY COMMITMENT TO ROK, AN ADDITIONAL 22 PERCENT WERE PREPARED TO LEAVE US TROOPS IN KOREA AS DETERRENT. SEOUL

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COMMENTS THAT TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE TWO FIGURES INDICATE

THAT 65 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS FAVOR CONTINUING STATIONING OF US TROOPS IN KOREA AND CALLS THIS A STRONG PLUS.

3. PA AGREES THE FIGURES CAN BE READ THIS WAY, BUT ONLY VERY HESITANTLY. AS OUR 219300 NOTED, THE ADDITIONAL 22 PERCENT HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AS FAVORING A REDUCTION IN US COMMITMENT "IN ORDER TO AVOID US INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER WAR." IN EXPRESSING A WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE TROOPS AS A DETERRENT THEY WERE RESPONDING TO A QUESTION WHICH INDICATED THAT THE DETERRENT FORCE WOULD BE PULLED BACK "AS BEHIND-THE-LINES ADVISORS IF NORTH KOREA INVADED ANYWAY." THIS IS NOT WHAT THE SECURITY TREATY CONTEMPLATES IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES, SO THAT WHILE PA AGREES WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT 65 PERCENT (43 PLUS 22) ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE THE STATIONING OF FORCES IN KOREA, IT IS NOT A FULLY COMFORTING RESPONSE GIVEN THE NATURE OF OUR COMMITMENT.

4. SEOUL HAS CORRECTLY CHALLENGED A STATISTICAL ERROR INVOLVING PARAS SEVEN AND TEN OF OUR 219300. WE STATED THAT ONLY ONE IN TEN OF RESPONDENTS WERE PREPARED TO SUPPLY ALL OF THE ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REQUIRED IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES. CLEARLY THE FIGURE OF NINE PERCENT REFLECTED IN RESPONSES SUMMARIZED IN PARA SEVEN SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE 43 PERCENT WHO WISH TO STAND BY OUR TREATY COMMITMENT.

5. AS PA HAS INFORMED SEOUL, FACT THAT 219300 MARKED FOR DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT WAS NOT MEANT TO SUGGEST THAT RECIPIENTS SHOULD TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO DISTRIBUTE CONTENTS PUBLICLY. TO AVOID FURTHER AMBIGUITY, WE HAVE MARKED THIS CABLE FOR DECONTROL ON JAN. 1, 1977. SISCO

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